CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer system, comprising:

a processor;

at least one input/output device coupled to said processor;

a flashable ROM device coupled to said processor and containing a configuration table; and

a non-volatile, non-flashable memory device coupled to said processor and containing a extension configuration table;

wherein configuration information can be added to the computer system by storing such configuration information in the non-volatile, non flashable memory device.

2. The computer system of claim 1 wherein, upon executing a set-up routine to configure the computer system for a newly installed device, said processor examines the flashable ROM device to determine whether configuration information pertaining to the newly installed device is present and, if not, said processor then examines the non-volatile, non-flashable memory device to determine whether the configuration information pertaining to the newly installed device is present.

3. The computer system of claim 2 wherein said non-volatile, non-flashable memory device comprises a non-volatile RAM device.

4. The computer system of claim 2 wherein said configuration table and said extension configuration table include a plurality of entries with each entry including an option identifier and corresponding configuration data.

5. The computer system of claim 4 wherein each option identifier and corresponding configuration data pertain to a circuit board.

6. The computer system of claim 2 wherein said configuration table includes a plurality of entries with each entry including a board identifier and corresponding configuration data.

7. The computer system of claim 6 wherein said extension configuration table includes storage capacity for a plurality of entries that include a board identifier and corresponding configuration data.

8. A method of configuring a computer, comprising:

adding a device to the computer;

first searching a ROM memory in which configuration information is stored for the configuration information pertaining to the added device; and

then, if the configuration is not found in the ROM memory, searching a non-volatile RAM memory for the configuration information.

9. The method of claim 8 further including:

flashing the ROM memory; and

determining whether any entries in the ROM memory duplicate entries in the non-volatile RAM memory; and

if one or more duplicates are found, clearing the one or more duplicate entries from the non-volatile RAM memory.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration information includes circuit board identifiers and corresponding configuration data.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration information includes operating system data.

12. The method of claim 8 further including storing configuration information in said non-volatile RAM memory instead of in the ROM memory when said device is added to the computer.

13. A method of flashing a ROM containing configuration information with a new set of configuration information in a computer system also including an NVRAM which contains an extension table having storage for configuration information, wherein new configuration is added to the NVRAM extension table instead of the ROM, said method comprising:

comparing entries in the new set of configuration information to be stored in the ROM against entries in the extension table in the NVRAM;

if a matching pair of entries is found, deleting the corresponding entry from the NVRAM; and

storing the new set of configuration information in the ROM.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the configuration information comprises board identifiers and corresponding configuration data.